

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 14680 011318Z

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CB, UN, US

SUBJECT: KHMER ISSUE IN 29TH UNGA: MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TOWARD A
NEGOTIATED SOLUTION

1. THE RELATIVE CALM WHICH HAS SETTLED OVER THE KHMER REPUBLIC FOR THE PAST THREE TO FOUR WEEKS HAS NOT BEEN DUE TO ANY BASIC IMPROVEMENT IN THE OVERALL CAMBODIAN MILITARY-POLITICAL-ECONOMIC-SOCIAL SITUATION, BUT HAS MERELY BEEN THE RESULT OF KHMERS ON THIS SIDE KEEPING SHIP OF STATE ON EVEN KEEL UNTIL CAMBODIA'S FUTURE HAS BEEN DEBATED IN THE UNGA. ALL EYES HERE ARE FIXED ON NEW YORK, AND PRIME MINISTER'S RELATIVELY ENCOURAGING PUBLIC REPORT ON UNGA OUTLOOK HAS REINFORCED KHMER DETERMINATION TO PUT BEST FOOT FORWARD HERE. THE MOUNTING MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WILL ALL STILL EXIST AFTER UNGA HAS PRONOUNCED ITSELF ON KHMER ISSUE, BUT IN MEANTIME WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CALM AND MATURE KHMER ATTITUDE WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE BEST POSSIBLE BACKGROUND FOR UNGA DEBATE. ENEMY WILL TRY TO UPSET THIS CALM BUT SO FAR HAS FAILED.

2. ACCORDING TO LATEST PRESS REPORTS AND USUN CABLES, DEBATE ON KHMER ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER, UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER UNGA HAS DEBATED PALESTINE. WITH PROSPECT OF UNGA RECESSING BEFORE CHRISTMAS, I WISH NOW TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF NOT DROPPING KHMER ISSUE FROM CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 14680 011318Z

AGENDA OR ACCEDING TO A POSSIBLE PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE

DEBATE ON "MOTION OF 33" OR ON ASIAN RESOLUTION TO NEXT YEAR'S UNGA, BECAUSE THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT HELP GKR'S INTERNATIONAL POSTURE OR MOVE KHMER PROBLEM TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WHILE I DO NOT KNOW INTRICACIES OF UN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES, I FEAR THAT BOUTEFLIKA AND PRO-SIHANOUK CLAN, FACED WITH PROSPECT OF A PRO-GKR VOTE COUNT, MIGHT TRY TO SWEEP KHMER ISSUE UNDER THE RUG BY DELIBERATELY LETTING TIME IN UNGA RUN OUT AND THEN JUST CARRYING KHMER ISSUE OVER TO NEXT YEAR'S SESSION. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY PRO-GKR COUNTRIES AS VICTORY BECAUSE GKR COULD KEEP ITS SEAT IN UNGA, BUT IN BROADER TERMS, IT REALLY WOULD NOT BE A DESIRABLE OUTCOME. A DECISION ON KHMER REPRESENTATION IS NEEDED BECAUSE OTHERWISE SAME ISSUE WILL PLAGUE GKR IN EVERY OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUM IF UNGA DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO THIS QUESTION AND DECIDE IT.

4. BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN NARROW DECISION OF WHETHER OR NOT GKR MAINTAINS ITS SEAT IN UN WOULD BE ENDORSEMENT BY MAJORITY OF UN MEMBERS OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SOLVE KHMER PROBLEM (ASIAN RESOLUTION), A DECISION WHICH BY ITSELF WOULD CONSTITUTE PRESSURE ON KHmers OF THE OTHER SIDE TO COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. A POSITIVE UNGA VOTE CALLING ON KHmers TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS IS IN MY OPINION ESSENTIAL FOR WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO TO BRING KHMER CONFLICT TO AN END. WHILE I FULLY REALIZE THAT A FAVORABLE VOTE IN UNGA ON THE ASIAN RESOLUTION WILL NOT NECESSARILY BRING ABOUT DIALOGUE BETWEEN KHmers, IT WOULD HAVE SALUTARY EFFECT IN SUPPORT OF ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA FROM US CONGRESS AND LEND POLITICAL WEIGHT TO OUR UNILATERAL EFFORTS TO SHIFT CAMBODIAN PROBLEM FROM BATTLEFIELD TO NEGOTIATING TABLE.

5. IN SHORT, TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS OF OUR OWN CAMBODIA POLICY, KHMER ISSUE MUST BE ADDRESSED IN 29TH UNGA, AND A PRO-NEGOTIATIONS RESOLUTION SHOULD BE PASSED IN UNGA. I REALIZE THIS IS A BIG ORDER, BUT THIS KIND OF ACTION IS NEEDED IF ADMINISTRATION IS TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD WHAT PRESIDENT FORD CALLED AN

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 14680 011318Z

"EARLY COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA."
DEAN

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